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MYERS, GUSTAVUS. *History of the Supreme Court of the United States*. Pp. 823. Price, \$2.00. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr and Company, 1912.

Mr. Gustavus Myers, author of *History of the Great American Fortunes*, *History of Public Franchises in New York City*, etc., has here, in a spacious volume, given the history of the supreme court of the United States as he sees it. He presents a comprehensive history of the development of capitalist resources, power and tactics, and of the great and continuing conflict of classes, in order to show the influences so persistently operating upon the minds and acts of the justices of the supreme court throughout its entire history. These influences are not venal but class influences, and were all the more effective for the very reason that the justices in question were not open to pecuniarily dishonest practices. From training, association, interest and prejudice, submerged in a permeating class environment, a fixed state of mind results. Upon conditions that the ruling class finds profitable to its aims, and advantageous to its power, are built codes of morality as well as of law. These codes are the reflections and agencies of class interests.

The students in traditional history will find in the volume much material that will be new to them as well as much in method to criticise. Thus the author concludes that Jay resigned the chief justiceship of the United States supreme court solely in order that, by making a treaty with England, he might enhance his own financial interests and the pecuniary interests of his associates. All of this might be true, but at the best motives cannot be shown by implications.

A characteristic statement showing the phraseology and point of view of the author is: "Both Burr and Hamilton were engaged in extensive land grabbing. Hamilton in many different directions." He proves from many records that Burr and Hamilton were extensive land owners. Those who have always found it difficult to reconcile Hamilton the young radical, at the time of the beginning of the American Revolution, with Hamilton the reactionary, at the time of the adoption of the Constitution and following, can find ample explanation in the author's treatment of Hamilton's family alignments and his many financial interests. The author, always socialistic in his point of view, completes his seven hundred and eighty-six pages with the prophecy: "The next application of the 'rule of reason' will be made by the organized working class in its own interests to the end that it will expropriate its expropriators."

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WALLACE, ALFRED R. *Social Environment and Moral Progress*. Pp. vi, 181. Price, \$1.25. New York: Cassell and Company, 1913.

This is a thought provoking little volume, which is likely to start many discussions. Dr. Wallace challenges the prevalent belief that there has been great advance in the realm of morality as a result of civilization. He points out many of the bad conditions at the present time, and seems to believe that through alcoholism, suicide, war, etc., we are falling far short of the ideals of our civilization. This represents the first part of the book.